

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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UNCLAS CANBERRA 4490

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJ: ADELAIDE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

REF:LTR JUNE 19, TO HITCHCOCK FROM ANTHONY STEEL, ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR, ADELAIDE FESTIVAL.

FOR CU/EA, HITCHCOCK AND COOPER

POST COMMENTS ON STEEL'S LETTER FOLLOW:

1. WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH CU'S SUPPORT OF THE NEW YORK CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER ENSEMBLE FOR ADELAIDE FESTIVAL AND ELSEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA.
2. STEEL AND HIS COLLEAGUES AT ADELAIDE FESTIVAL ARE WITHOUT DOUBT THE MOST TALENTED, HARD WORKING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPRESSARIOS OF THE ARTS IN AUSTRALIA. THEIR FESTIVAL HALL IS COUNTRY'S BEST AND ACOUSTICALLY AND ESTHETICALLY ONE OF WORLD'S BEST. YOU MAY BE SURE ANY USG SPONSORED ARTISTS UNDER THEIR CARE WILL BE MOST PROFESSIONALLY HANDLED.
3. IN VIEW OF ABOVE AND OF THE BICENTENNIAL ASPECTS OF THE 1976 ADELAIDE FESTIVAL, WE STRONGLY ENDORSE USG SUPPORT, AS STAG'S OR AMSPEC'S, FOR APPEARANCES AT FESTIVAL AND ELSEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA AS LECTURERS, OF MR. CHARLES WUORINEN AND MR. GEORGE CRUMB. WUORINEN'S PRESENCE AT ADELAIDE WOULD BE AN ARTISTIC TOUR DE FORCE, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE IS COMPOSING A PIECE WHICH WILL HAVE ITS WORLD PREMIERE AT ADELAIDE.

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4. WE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN GEORGE CRUMB, WHOSE MUSIC, WHILE ADMITTEDLY NOT POPULAR, IS NONETHELESS PERHAPS THE MOST HIGHLY REGARDED SERIOUS AMERICAN COMPOSER OF THIS CENTURY AMONG MUSIC SCHOLARS AND SERIOUS AUDIENCES. DURING RECENT VISIT OF USIA'S DARRYL DAYTON, HE FEATURED CRUMB'S WORK, INCLUDING TWO LENGTHY LECTURES ON NATIONWIDE ABC RADIO, WHICH HAVE BEEN REPEATED. CONFIDENT WE COULD PROGRAM CRUMB ON ABC, AT SYDNEY CONSERVATORIUM AND CANBERRA COLLEGE OF MUSIC, AMONG OTHER PLACES.

5. HAVE SAID ABOVE, WE WELL AWARE THAT CU'S LIMITED RESOURCES CANNOT BE OVERLY EXPENDED ON THE ADELAIDE FESTIVAL. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT AAEP IS PROPOSING DISTINGUISHED VISITOR GRANT FOR SUSAN SONTAG TO PARTICIPATE IN FESTIVAL'S WRITERS' WEEK, FOLLOWING MOST SUCCESSFULLY PARTICIPATION IN LAST FESTIVAL OF JOHN UPDIKE. OUR BUDGET IS SUCH THAT WE CANNOT CONSIDER ONE COUNTRY ONLY AMSPEC GRANTS OUT OF OUR COUNTRY ALLOCATION FOR EITHER CRUMB OR WUORINN, BUT WOULD STRONGLY URGE AND WELCOME THEIR VISITING AUSTRALIA DURING ADELAIDE FESTIVAL PERIOD IF REGIONAL AMSPEC GRANT POSSIBLE. GREEN

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